



This [Strategic Plan for the Climate Change Science Program](#) describes a strategy for developing knowledge of variability and change in climate and related environmental and human systems, and for encouraging the application of this knowledge. The strategy seeks to optimize the benefits of research that is conducted, sponsored, or applied by 13 agencies and departments of the U.S. Government. These agencies coordinate their research through the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), which incorporates the [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#) (USGCRP) and the [Climate Change Research Initiative](#) (CCRI).

Scientists and research program managers from the 13 participating agencies and the Climate Change Science Program Office drafted the Strategic Plan. It reflects a commitment by its authors to high-quality science, which requires openness to review and criticism by the wider scientific community. The process by which the Plan was drafted proceeded with the transparency essential for scientific credibility.